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The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Society of American Fight Directors

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THE CUTTING EDGE

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors

January, 1990

★ NEWS FLASHES ★

Local Reps. Announced

Local SAFD reps. have been announced. Each rep. will act as local spokesmen for SAFD and liaisons for activities and information on stage combat in their area.

Chicago, IL	David Wooley Doug Mumaw
San Francisco, CA	Dexter Fidler
Durham, NC	Jack Young
Berkley, CA	Richard Lane
Cincinnati, OH	Susan Evistan
Tallahassee, FL	Dan Carter
Pittsburgh, PA	Tim Carryer
Boston, MA	Bob Walsh

Attention Teachers—

A reminder—required moves for certification fight tests have changed. Check Policies and Procedures published in the Fall '89 *Fight Master*.

Another reminder—notify me, your Secretary-Treasurer, when you schedule your fight test so that I can make arrangements and get you an adjudicator.

★★★

A Message from the Editor

This is the premiere issue of the SAFD newsletter. The whole reason this newsletter exists is *communication*. For the officers to communicate with over three hundred members scattered across the country and across the globe. And for those members to communicate with the officers and each other.

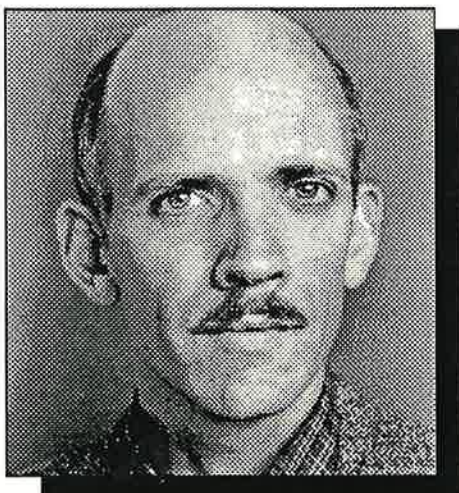
I hope *The Cutting Edge* will act as a forum where we can share brilliant ideas, nagging gripes, and hot gossip. (If you don't want ugly rumors to spread, send me the facts!) The focus will be on people: the people who make up the SAFD.

Richard Raether



J. Allen Suddeth begins term as new SAFD President

New York Fight Master J. Allen Suddeth takes office this month as the new President of the Society of American Fight Directors. Reelected to another term as Vice President was Drew Fracher



SAFD President, J. Allen Suddeth

and Richard Raether continues in the appointed positions of Secretary and Treasurer. SAFD Officers serve a three year term in office with new elections held the fall of their final year, with ballots mailed to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Allen has been a member of SAFD since 1980. As a fight choreographer, Allen has over 450 television shows and over 150 stage shows to his credit. In addition, Allen is the director of A.C.T.S. the Actors' Combat Training School in New York and founder of Fights R Us.

Born in Vienna, Austria to American parents serving abroad, Allen grew up a fencing enthusiast and trained with Patrick Crean, to whom, Allen claims, he owes all he knows about safety, panache and "Za!" Allen is the co-author and choreographer of the off-Broadway hit, *A Night at the Fights!* which was recently revived at the Midtown Arts Common.

★★★

Stewart Granger and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. named Honorary Fight Masters

Screen swashbucklers Stewart Granger and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. have recently joined SAFD ranks as honorary Fight Masters, announced Fight Master Joseph D. Martinez. Both stars have been sent special membership certificates.

Granger starred in many a heroic swordplay epic for MGM in the 1950s including, among others, *Scaramouche* and *The Prisoner of Zenda*. His climactic smallsword fight in *Scaramouche* is one of the most intricate and best executed duels on the silver screen.

Fairbanks inherited an adventurous legacy from his father and himself starred in, among many others, the classic 1930s *Prisoner of Zenda* wherein the fate of King and country rested on the outcome of his duel with Ronald Colman.

Together, these two actors have

inspired and thrilled generations of young actors who long to wield a rapier with the same style and dash as these film legends who now grace the SAFD.

★★★

Dues are Due!

Yes. It's that time of year again. Annual dues for all membership classifications are \$25.00. Make checks payable to the Society of American Fight Directors and send to:

Richard Raether
1834 Camp Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103

SAFD, as a non-profit organization, is required to supply information regarding its membership. To help us find out some demographic information (just who *are* you people out there?) please take a moment and answer the following questions. Send the survey to me—Richard Raether—since you will be sending me your dues shortly anyway, right? Right? Thanks.

Name _____ Address _____
 Phone _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Race _____
 Membership classification: ☐ Fight Master ☐ Certified Actor/Combatant ☐ Certified Teacher ☐ Friend
 Occupation: ☐ Performer ☐ Teacher ☐ Director ☐ Student ☐ Other _____
 Are you certified? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, date of certification test? _____
 Your Teacher _____ Adjudicator _____
 Ever taught stage combat? ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever acted as fight choreographer for a show? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 Have you ever attended our national stage combat workshop? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, year _____
 Would you attend a regional stage combat workshop in your area? ☐ Yes ☐ No Best time of year _____

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Richard Raether, Fight Master



Send your
 money today!

**1990 SAFD
 DUES ARE DUE!**